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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,870	08/22/2003	Narendra Digamber Joshi	129969	1869

31838 7590 12/29/2004
HASSE GUTTAG & NESBITT LLC
7550 CENTRAL PARK BLVD.
MASON, OH 45040

EXAMINER


GIBSON, ERIC M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3661

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/604,870	JOSHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric M Gibson	3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/10/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because descriptive text labels are required for the blank boxes. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-10, 12, 14-17 and 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin (US004280185A).

a. Per claim 1, Martin teaches an apparatus for recording, storing, updating, and retrieving operating, maintenance and repair information relating to individual components of turbine engines, including at least one information storage device permanently deployed on at least one individual component (64, figure 1), identification information about at least one part of the engine component (30-35, figure 1), at least one data register having data storage capabilities referenced by stored identification information of at least one part and a parameter (column 8; lines 17-21), wherein the information storage device is accessible for retrieving recorded and stored information (column 4, lines 37-42).

b. Per claim 2, Martin teaches that the information is updated by an engine control system (column 4, lines 8-13).

c. Per claim 3, Martin teaches periodically storing the data (column 2, lines 10-15).

d. Per claim 4, Martin teaches recording the "on-time" of a component, which necessarily includes updating when the component is stopped to compute the time (column 8, lines 13-16).

e. Per claim 5, Martin teaches adding to the storage device (column 8, lines 17-18).

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- f. Per claim 6, Martin teaches storing information over the life of the component (column 8, lines 17-21).
- g. Per claim 7, Martin teaches storing the information permanently (column 8, lines 17-21).
- h. Per claim 8, Martin teaches storing information over the life of the component (column 8, lines 17-21).
- i. Per claims 9 and 10, Martin teaches that the LTU can be mounted on the engine (column 3, lines 45-46).
- j. Per claim 12, Martin teaches anti-tampering measures (column 8, lines 30-32).
- k. Per claim 14, Martin teaches that the information storage device can be mounted on the engine (column 3, lines 45-46).
- l. Per claim 15, Martin teaches that the information storage device can be mounted off the engine (column 3, lines 45-46).
- m. Per claims 16 and 17, Martin teaches that the storage device can be located off the engine (column 3, lines 45-46).
- n. Per claim 19, Martin teaches that the storage device can be queried by an outside unit (column 4, lines 40-42), where the data can be used by people to ensure that contractual obligations are met.
- o. Per claim 20, Martin teaches an apparatus for electronically recording, storing, updating, and retrieving operating, maintenance and repair information relating to individual components of turbine engines, including at least one information storage

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device permanently deployed on at least one individual component (64, figure 1), identification information of at least one life limited part of the engine component (30-35, figure 1), at least one data register having data storage capabilities for life limited parts referenced by stored identification information of at least one life limited part and a parameter (column 8, lines 17-21), wherein the information storage device is accessible for retrieving recorded and stored information (column 4, lines 37-42).

p. Per claim 21, Martin teaches storing the information permanently (column 8, lines 17-21).

q. Per claim 22, Martin teaches periodically storing the data (column 2, lines 10-15).

r. Per claim 23, Martin teaches recording the "on-time" of a component, which necessarily includes updating when the component is stopped to compute the time (column 8, lines 13-16).

s. Per claim 24, Martin teaches a method for recording, storing, updating, and retrieving operating, maintenance and repair information relating to individual components of turbine engines, including providing at least one information storage device permanently deployed on at least one individual component (64, figure 1), storing identification information about at least one part of the engine component (30-35, figure 1), providing at least one data register having data storage capabilities and referencing each data register with stored identification information of at least one part and a parameter (column 8, lines 17-21), and retrieving recorded and stored information (column 4, lines 37-42).

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- t. Per claim 25, Martin teaches periodically storing the data (column 2, lines 10-15).
- u. Per claim 26, Martin teaches recording the "on-time" of a component, which necessarily includes updating when the component is stopped to compute the time (column 8, lines 13-16).
- v. Per claim 27, Martin teaches a method for electronically recording, storing, updating, and retrieving operating, maintenance and repair information relating to individual components of turbine engines, including providing at least one information storage device permanently deployed on at least one individual component (64, figure 1), storing identification information of at least one life limited part of the engine component (30-35, figure 1), providing at least one data register having data storage capabilities for life limited parts and referencing each data register with stored identification information of at least one life limited part and a parameter (column 8, lines 17-21), and retrieving recorded and stored information (column 4, lines 37-42).
- w. Per claim 28, Martin teaches periodically storing the data (column 2, lines 10-15).
- x. Per claim 29, Martin teaches storing information over the life of the component (column 8, lines 17-21).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 11 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of Vogan et al. (US005968107A).

a. Per claims 11 and 18, Martin teaches the invention as explained in the rejection of claims 1 and 10. Martin does not teach predicting future maintenance requirements from the data. In the field of diagnostic and maintenance data gathering, parameter trending of engine or other components is commonly known and used. One such system is disclosed by Vogan. Vogan teaches using the stored data from a component to predict the future maintenance requirements of that component before a failure occurs, in order to minimize downtime or repair time of the component (column 1, lines 57-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention, to use the stored parameter information in the system of Martin to predict

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future maintenance requirements, as component trending is well known and practiced in the art, as evidenced by Vogan.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

a. Per claim 13, the prior art does not teach or reasonably suggest in combination the apparatus for recording, storing, updating, and retrieving operating, maintenance and repair information relating to individual components of turbine engines, including that maintenance activity must be recorded in the information storage device when maintenance is done for the engine to operate as claimed.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Muehl et al. (US20040024501A1) teaches component tagging with maintenance related information including maintenance procedures. Muehl et al. (US20040020994A1) teaches component tagging with maintenance related information in open and closed formats. Jaw (US006490543B1) teaches a lifeometer for measuring and displaying life systems/parts. McMannis (US004135246A) teaches an integrated history recorder for gas turbine engines.

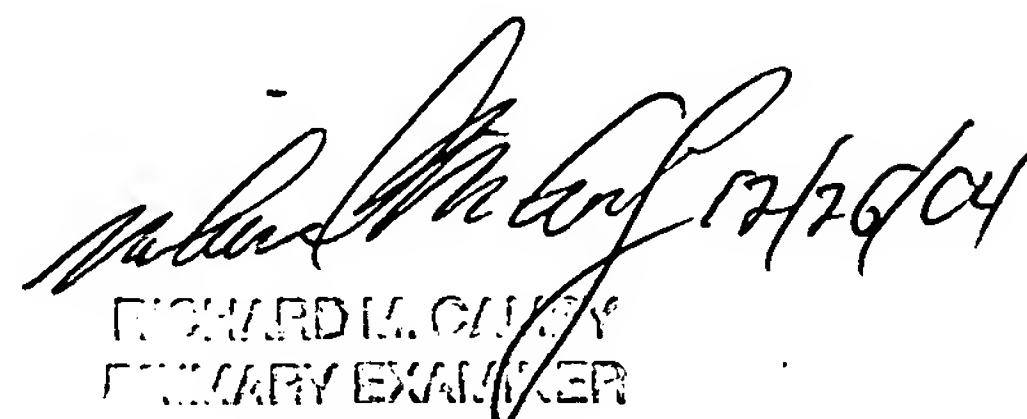
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric M Gibson whose telephone number is (703) 306-4545. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (703) 305-8233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EMG


RICHARD M. GIBSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER